

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 089678

P R 100617Z FB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5022

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0912

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PINT, VS, PDIP, PFOR

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY DECISION TO ALLOW PRG TO ESTABLISH

OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA

REF: A. STATE 29455; B. CANBERRA 886; C. CANBERRA 857

1. DURING COURSE OF CALL ON OTHER MATTERS FEB 10 ON MICHAEL COOK (FIRST ASST SECRETARY, NORTH AND SOUTH ASIA DIVISION, DFA), CHARGE MENTIONED OUR CONCERN AT DECISION BY LABOR PARTY AT TERRIGAL CONFERENCE (REFTELS) TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA. COOK SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT DEPT HAD CALLED IN AMBASSADOR SHAW AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM ARE GOING OUT TODAY.

2. COOK COMMENTED THAT HE KNEW LITERALLY ONLY WHAT WAS IN THE PRESS, AS DFA WAS NOT RPT NOT REPRESENTED AT LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE AND THERE WAS NO TRANSCRIPT. POLCONS, WHO ALSO PRESENT AND WHO HAD BEEN AT CONFERENCE, NOTED THAT WHITLAM HAD EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPROVAL OF GVN MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER BEFORE (REF B) AND THAT WHITLAM'S COMMENTS WERE DELIVERED OFF THE CUFF, WITHOUT ANY PRESSURE FROM LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN ALP.
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COOK AGAIN SAID THAT DFA WOULD WAIT FOR RESULTS OF LABOR CONFERENCE DECISION TO BE COMMUNICATED TO IT.

3. WE NOTED THAT DRV HAD MADE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR FAWCETT CONDITIONAL ON BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ALLOWING PRG INFORMATION OFFICE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN LONDON, AND WE ASKED IF GOA HAD BEEN UNDER SIMILAR PRESSURE. COOK SAID THAT DRV CHARGE HAD TOLD DFA THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO INTENTION OF MAKING FORTHCOMING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS IN HANOI BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR DAVID WILSON SUBJECT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA. COOK ADDED THAT DRV CHARGE HAD MADE POINT THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE POLICY TOWARDS BRITISH WAS ON THING AND POLICY TOWARDS AUSTRALIA WAS ANOTHER. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, COOK SAID THAT AMBASSADOR WILSON WILL LEAVE AUSTRALIA AROUND END OF FEBRUARY AND ARRIVE IN VIENTIANE ON MARCH 3, PROCEEDING TO HANOI SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

HARROP

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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